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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 227

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FEBRUARY, 1962

January Employment Highest of Record

A total of 158,700 non-farm wage earners received pay checks from the state's industrial and commercial employers at mid January according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was the highest January non-farm employment total of record. It exceeded by 2,100 the previous record for that month set in January, 1956, when 156,600 wage earners were on non-farm payrolls. Although employment was down seasonally by 5,500 from December, it was still 1,800 above January, 1961, and 5,000 above the average January employment of the past ten years.

Construction Leads the Way

The employment rise over January of last year is largely the result of more active and expanded construction projects in the shape of missile site bases, air base housing, preliminary work on dam sites, and highway and bridge construction. An estimated \$200 million in contract construction projects are either active or soon to begin. With more public and private construction in the offing, activity in this field is bound to be a big part of the employment picture this year. Construction employment, although temporarily down 1,800 workers from December to January because of weather conditions, is still 1,700 above a year ago.

Seasonal Declines Below Normal

A review of seasonal aspects of January estimates of employment shows the employment dip between December and January this year to be below that of the same period for the past two years. Compared with an over-the-month drop of 5,500 in employment from December, 1961 to January, 1962, was a loss of 6,300 from December, 1960, to January, 1961 and a decline of

Economic Outlook Brightens Earlier Than Usual With Employment Trends Up and UCC Claims Down

Normal winter letdown usually prevails in Montana labor markets at the turn of the season. The decline this year has been less severe than former years. Favorable weather during the last half of January and early February relieved some of the pressures of labor surplus by opening up jobs in construction, logging, and other outside work to an appreciable degree. January jobseekers were nearly 2,000 below a year ago. Weekly unemployment claims have been running from 4,000 to 6,000 less than last year. With favorable weather, these optimistic trends are expected to continue. Some temporary setbacks are expected in logging operations as soft roads and load limits stall activity in this field from 4 to 6 weeks.

11,800 between December, 1959 and January, 1960.

Trade Industries Down 2,000

Employment declines from December to January were recorded in six of the eight major industrial groups. Layoffs of extra sales and inventory workers after the holiday season brought the sharpest decline in trade establishments with a drop of 2,000 workers. Employment in manufacturing was down 1,200 with durable and non-durable segments each sharing a 600 wage earner loss. The biggest drop in the durable goods group occurred in lumbering with a deficit of 500 workers from December. Wind up of sugar beet refining operations accounted for most of the 600 loss in food processing under the non-durable category. Employment in service industries and government were each down 200. The transportation, utilities, and communications group showed a drop of 100 workers. Employment levels in mining, and finance, insurance, and real estate remained the same as December.

Butte Is Looking Up

Butte has been listed with the U. S. Department of Labor as an area of substantial and persistent labor surplus since 1957 when employment in metal mining began to decline. From that time until the present, hope

for an improved economic climate in the mining city was not too encouraging. But now Butte is beginning to flex its economic muscle. Preliminary work on a multi-million dollar copper concentrating plant has already begun. The American Chrome Company has announced plans for construction of a \$7½ million ferrochrome refinery. It follows that volume in trade, service, and transportation channels will increase as a result of these new projects. The results at first may not be too spectacular, but Butte is already on the way to making some new history.

ARA Training Starts

The first retraining program for Montana's unemployed under the Federal Area Redevelopment Act of 1961 got underway in Butte on February 12. Fifteen trainees are enrolled in an engineering aides course which will run 40 hours a week for 16 weeks. Other courses scheduled to start within the next few weeks include those for diesel mechanics, combination welders, and nurses' aides. The purpose of the ARA program is to provide retraining of those unemployed persons who need new skills in order to find gainful employment. Its retraining provisions are available only in areas where the rate of unemployment exceeds 6 percent.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	1) Dec. 1961	2) Nov. 1961	Dec. 1960	Dec. 1961	Nov. 1961	Dec. 1960	Dec. 1961	Nov. 1961	Dec. 1960	Dec. 1961	Nov. 1961	Dec. 1960
3) All Manufacturing.....	2.3	2.8	2.4	1.0	1.4	1.4	4.0	5.2	3.9	1.0	1.0	.9
Durable Goods.....	2.1	2.8	3.0	1.0	1.7	1.5	5.1	5.7	4.5	1.1	1.1	.7
Primary Metal.....	1.7	4.5	3.6	.1	1.1	.8	2.6	6.0	5.3	.6	.6	.4
3) Nondurable Goods.....	2.5	3.0	1.2	1.0	.9	1.1	2.0	4.2	2.6	.8	.7	1.1
All Mining.....	5.3	3.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.2	4.8	4.8	4.3	1.6	2.4	1.6
Metal Mining.....	5.2	4.0	1.2	.2	.3	.4	6.8	5.5	4.7	1.9	3.4	1.4

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.

3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Feb. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(551 jobseekers, 80 new, 378 men, 173 women). Lull in labor market noted after several weeks of severe weather. Temporary layoff of 33 smeltermen helped boost unemployment levels to 550 jobseekers. Industry and farm labor demands at winter low.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,545 jobseekers, 765 new, 2,689 men, 856 women). Labor market demand reduced substantially in construction and other outside endeavors during January because of weather conditions. New construction during 1961 \$5 million below 1960 level. Effects of weather and last year's drought reflected in 12 per cent decline in trade volume. Competition from two large shopping plazas forced closure of two smaller retail stores employing 25. Good demand during month for typists and stenographers. End of sugar beet refining operations idled about 400.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(876 jobseekers, 207 new, 653 men, 223 women). Construction and outside activities resumed with return of more favorable weather. Logging, pulpwood, and sawmill operations expected to slow somewhat due to deep snow at cutting sites, road conditions, high lumber inventories, and shortages of saw logs. Cement plant closed indefinitely idling 85 workers.

BLAINE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,614 jobseekers, 271 new, 1,085 men, 529 women). Future economic outlook brightened with announcement of two large projects. Preliminary work expected to start soon on multi-million dollar copper concentrating plant and \$7.2 million fetrochrome smelter. Employment potential not yet available but could possibly reach 1,000 mark. January labor market patterns remained passive both in industry and agriculture.

CUT BANK—(470 jobseekers, 107 new, 421 men, 49 women). January hiring trends centered chiefly in trade and public utility segments. Construction and outside work curbed by weather. Farm hiring slow with some demand for stock feeding and maintenance work.

DILTON—(271 jobseekers, 60 new, 226 men, 48 women). Heavy construction, including work on Clark Canyon Dam site, resumed after temporary shutdown during cold weather. Other construction and building projects expected to remain idle until April 15. Trade and service employment at seasonal low with no change forecast next two months. Early calving, herding, feeding, and general maintenance work main farm activities. Lambing expected to begin

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—

	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. Avg. 1953-62
Industrial Employment	158,700	164,200	156,900	153,700
New Job Applicants	3,984	3,815	4,589	4,894
Job Applicants, End of Month	20,916	16,568	22,670	17,316

Insured Unemployment, Week of

	Feb. 2 1962	Jan. 5 1962	Feb. 3 1961	Avg. 1st Feb. Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	1,474	1,991	1,970	1,774
Unemployed Weeks Filed	12,672	9,792	16,610	15,543
Total Unemployment Claims	14,146	11,783	18,580	17,317

February 20 and should create demand for lumber and herders.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(813 jobseekers, 110 new, 563 men, 250 women). Weather-caused cutbacks reduced construction crews to minimum. Estimated 200 workers on air base projects at present, including 95 on off-base housing units. Upswing in demand for clerical workers noted during month. Trade and service volume slowed but not below normal for this time of year. Farm labor demand static.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(310 jobseekers, 71 new, 239 men, 71 women). Labor market patterns remain much the same as December. Most outside work shut down. January hiring mostly in oil field services and public utilities. Projected projects including court house, high school, retirement home, shopping center, two clinics, and interstate highway project should provide good employment potential with start of spring season.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,949 jobseekers, 596 new, 2,215 men, 734 women). Hiring in industry and farm held back by severe weather conditions during January. Construction payrolls moved up and down in response to climatic conditions, but employment still considerably higher than year ago. Trade industries in grip of winter low, but upswing forecast next 30 days with start of spring buying season.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(619 jobseekers, 85 new, 466 men, 153 women). Area jobseekers down 100 from year ago chiefly as result of improved conditions in lumber industries. Logging extremely active with shortages of timber fallers at month's end. Slight increase noted in trade hiring, but service industry volume in winter decline.

HAZER, Chinook, Harlem—(625 jobseekers, 138 new, 517 men, 108 women). Labor market activity failed to make much progress from December. Business conditions still have some way to go before any marked improvement is evident. Only one major building project active with small crew. Farm hiring expected to improve.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(1,162 jobseekers, 225 new, 904 men, 258 women). Employment decline occurred in construction and lumbering most of the month because of cold weather. Idle workers began returning to their jobs at month's end as weather improved. Road building and excavation started at site of \$10 million cement plant. Work resumed on interstate highway project and new shopping center. New labor demand during January chiefly for clerical workers.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,956 jobseekers, 184 new, 1,544 men, 412 women). Lull in construction and sawmill work communicated to trade and service channels where layoffs were general. Stepped-up logging operations one of the brighter aspects of the January labor market. Work on new Libby plywood mill and laminated beam plant making fairly good progress.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Wimett—(417 jobseekers, 103 new, 346 men, 71 women). January hiring activity centered chiefly in construction and trade. Job hiring more than double year ago with increase attributed chiefly to presence of missile site construction in area. Future farm outlook brightened considerably.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(584 jobseekers, 58 new, 440 men, 144 women). Post-holiday layoffs in trade circles common. Service industries also at winter low. Weather-caused construction shutdowns added to unemployment. Logging and sawmill activity keyed to weather conditions with some temporary setbacks. Railroad employment fairly stable but with a few layoffs.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(489 jobseekers, 83 new, 442 men, 47 women). Job hiring in both industry and agriculture above year ago despite worse weather conditions this year. Most January job orders came from trade establishments. Cafe hiring down with little demand for cooks and waitresses. No great upsurge in any industry segment forecast next few months.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954	14	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	150.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	157.3	156.7	155.3	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	158.1	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	157.7	155.2	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	159.9	154.1	159.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1962	157.7												

* Data from the State Employment Security Department's monthly reports and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Feb. 1

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,667 jobseekers, 518 new, 1,165 men, 502 women). Winter labor market patterns considerably brighter than year ago. Manufacturing and trade industries at the top of the hiring list. Most other non-farm segments keeping good employment levels. Bridge and building projects now active after some temporary weather-caused suspensions. Completion of addition to plywood plant will add 27 workers to payrolls during February. Farm labor demand still negligible.

POLSON—(419 jobseekers, 66 new, 349 men, 70 women). Steady employment in logging, plywood, and sawmills highlighted January labor market scene. New stud mill started operations giving employment to 16. Construction practically nil. Bids to be opened February 8 for \$1.4 million city sewer system. Sorting and grading feed potatoes will provide employment for 75 at mid February.

SHELBY—(428 jobseekers, 82 new, 331 men, 97 women). Most outside work suspended by bad weather. Construction of new livestock office and sales ring to begin soon; replacing one destroyed by fire. Upcoming projects include post office and new city water supply system.

SIDNEY—(274 jobseekers, 63 new, 227 men, 47 women). Demand for inventory and clerical workers set the January hiring pace. Construction in decline, but planned projects include two churches, telephone building, and city hall with no definite start dates set. End of sugar beet refining idled nearly 200 workers.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(356 jobseekers, 66 new, 313 men, 43 women). Employment levels in construction, lumbering, and logging, and other outside work on a see-saw basis tied to weather conditions. Some small building projects resumed as weather moderated. More expansion planned at Trout Creek sawmill.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(521 jobseekers, 46 new, 428 men, 93 women). Employment in most industry segments at fairly stable levels with some short work weeks in trade and service units. Most building projects closed, but interior work continues on enclosed structures. Slight decline noted in oil fields with two rigs currently active. Surplus of oil field workers awaiting job openings.

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January 1960, to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 798 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,443 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Jan. 1962 (2)	Dec. 1961 (3)	Jan. 1961	Dec. '61 to Jan. '62	Jan. '61 to Jan. '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES					
Manufacturing	158,700	164,200	156,900	5,500	1,800
Durable goods	19,100	20,300	19,100	1,200	00
Lumber and timber products	11,700	12,300	11,600	600	100
Primary metals	6,500	7,000	6,600	500	100
Other (4)	3,600	3,600	3,700	00	100
Nondurable goods	1,000	1,700	1,300	100	300
Food and kindred products	7,400	8,000	7,500	600	100
Printing and publishing	4,100	4,700	4,300	600	200
Petroleum refining	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	100
Other (5)	800	800	900	00	100
Mining	900	900	600	00	300
Metal mining	6,800	6,800	7,600	00	800
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	4,000	4,000	4,600	00	600
Petroleum-natural gas production	800	800	700	00	100
2,000	2,000	2,300	00	300	
Contract Construction	9,200	11,000	7,500	1,800	1,700
Contractors, building construction	2,400	2,600	2,800	200	400
Contractors, other than building	3,400	4,700	1,600	1,300	1,800
Contractors, special trade	3,400	3,700	3,100	300	300
Transportation and utilities	17,600	17,700	17,700	100	100
Interstate railroads	8,000	8,000	8,300	00	300
Transportation except railroads	3,800	3,800	3,600	00	200
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,900	5,800	100	00
Trade	37,500	39,500	37,500	2,000	00
Wholesale trade	8,300	8,300	8,300	00	00
Retail trade	29,200	31,200	29,200	2,000	00
General merchandise and apparel	5,500	6,600	5,500	1,100	00
Food stores	4,900	4,900	4,800	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	6,700	7,100	6,700	400	00
Automotive and filling stations	5,500	5,800	6,100	300	500
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,600	6,800	6,200	200	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Services and miscellaneous	22,300	22,500	21,800	200	500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,400	2,500	2,300	100	100
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6)	17,900	18,000	17,500	100	400
Government	39,400	39,600	38,900	200	500
Federal	10,100	10,300	9,700	200	400
State and local	29,300	29,300	29,200	00	100
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)					
Manufacturing	22,000	22,500	20,100	500	1,900
Contract construction	3,400	3,400	3,100	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,700	3,000	1,900	300	800
Trade, wholesale and retail	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	5,300	5,500	5,100	200	200
Government	4,600	4,600	4,400	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	4,000	4,000	3,600	00	400
Manufacturing	22,900	23,600	22,900	700	00
Contract construction	3,300	3,400	3,200	100	100
Transportation and utilities	1,000	1,100	1,200	100	200
Trade, wholesale and retail	2,800	2,800	2,800	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	7,200	7,600	7,100	400	100
Services and miscellaneous (8)	1,500	1,500	1,400	00	100
Government	3,600	3,700	3,900	100	300
	3,500	3,500	3,300	00	200

(c) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

(8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JAN. 1962 AND JAN. 1961

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement						UI Claims*									
	Jan. 1962		Jan. 1961		Jan. 1962		Jan. 1961		Jan. 1962			Jan. 1961			Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.								
Anaconda.....	80	11	177	33	551	77	536	132	37	9	46	10	16	1	17	3	332	632						
Billings.....	765	104	734	177	3,545	787	3,659	748	459	63	522	188	304	54	358	151	2,367	2,948						
Bozeman.....	207	50	166	45	876	201	728	162	124	16	140	25	113	16	129	42	529	480						
Butte.....	271	74	361	85	1,614	436	2,686	636	82	6	88	34	31	10	41	16	986	1,814						
Cut Bank.....	107	18	96	28	470	89	394	140	34	7	41	12	28	11	39	6	270	339						
Dillon.....	69	23	72	13	271	62	343	66	38	40	78	32	33	66	35	149	226							
Glasgow.....	110	25	140	27	813	190	909	269	65	2	67	9	45	3	48	12	463	849						
Glendive.....	71	15	83	24	310	79	303	116	37	5	42	14	43	3	46	11	248	328						
Great Falls.....	596	124	747	182	2,949	920	2,864	862	235	39	274	77	255	35	290	84	1,875	1,993						
Hamilton.....	85	25	64	11	619	146	727	177	19	4	23	8	10	2	12	2	311	546						
Havre.....	138	28	173	42	625	182	718	204	66	5	71	25	70	4	74	55	405	598						
Helena.....	225	30	196	54	1,162	408	1,101	353	121	4	125	44	141	13	154	19	885	809						
Kalispell.....	184	41	280	53	1,956	531	1,964	493	88	1	89	31	63	2	65	21	1,459	2,044						
Lewistown.....	103	32	142	32	417	125	507	176	82	16	98	33	34	21	55	27	311	372						
Livingston.....	58	13	108	22	584	143	738	152	48	11	59	22	40	40	11	501	616							
Miles City.....	83	19	108	15	489	161	495	124	33	25	58	15	31	13	44	12	423	587						
Missoula.....	518	132	392	92	1,667	464	1,551	393	243	6	249	48	129	10	139	33	1,968	1,381						
Polson.....	66	11	127	41	419	122	524	153	45	9	54	19	60	5	71	38	353	490						
Shelby.....	82	15	120	22	428	126	576	143	28	5	33	11	60	2	87	30	282	425						
Sidney.....	63	11	121	26	274	56	396	95	26	6	32	6	26	2	28	9	278	364						
Thompson Falls.....	66	19	44	17	356	121	361	95	39	39	13	29	29	9	303	322								
Wolf Point.....	46	9	138	29	521	129	590	145	18	2	20	3	32	3	35	8	348	451						
TOTALS.....	3,984	912	4,589	1,070	20,916	5,555	22,670	5,856	1,967	281	2,248	679	1,599	268	1,867	614	14,146	18,580						

*Includes 630 claims of the Fed. UC program 683 same ayear ago. 1,602 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan.(1) 1962	Dec.(2) 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan.(1) 1962	Dec.(2) 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan.(1) 1962	Dec.(2) 1961	Jan. 1961
All Manufacturing	\$ 93.22	\$ 96.25	\$ 95.50	36.7	38.5	38.2	2.54	2.50	2.50
Durable goods	87.44	89.89	94.67	34.7	36.1	38.8	2.52	2.49	2.44
Primary metals	105.18	104.38	98.60	40.3	40.3	39.6	2.61	2.59	2.49
Nondurable goods	105.59	108.25	94.94	40.3	43.3	36.8	2.62	2.50	2.58
Food and kindred products	88.10	94.14	78.38	40.6	45.7	36.8	2.17	2.06	2.13
All Mining	107.17	109.62	106.40	39.4	40.3	39.7	2.72	2.72	2.68
Metal mining	107.17	107.17	104.41	39.4	39.4	39.4	2.72	2.72	2.65
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.30	102.87	99.06						
Transportation and Utilities	106.51	112.99	109.50	37.9	39.70	39.2	2.47	2.48	2.38
Utilities and communications	90.61	96.72	93.30						

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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